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DURSLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1941.

Medical Officer of Health - J.H. Kitson, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector - W.H. Williams, M.R.S.I.

SECTION A. Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (acres) ... ..	26,905
Population (Census, 1931)...	14,400
(Estimated 1941) ... ..	18,110

Number of inhabited houses (Census, 1931)	3,788
(end of 1941) ... ..	4,962

Rateable Value ... ..	60,644
Sum represented by a penny rate ... ..	£239

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
<u>Live Births:</u>			
Legitimate ... ..	293	151	142
Illegitimate ... ..	17	11	6

Birth Rate: 17.1

<u>Still Births</u> (all legitimate) ...	3	1	2
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Rate per 1,000 total (live and still)  
Births: 9.6

<u>Deaths</u> ... ..	192	100	92
Death Rate: 10.6			

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth

from sepsis ...	0
from other causes.	0

RATE per 1000 total (live and still) births - NIL.

Deaths of infants under one year -

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
	16	11	5
Legitimate ... ..	15	10	5
Illegitimate ... ..	1	1	0

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:-

All Infants per 1000 live births - 49

Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births - 49

Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births - 59.

Deaths from Measles (all ages) ...	0
" " Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	0
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ...	0
" " Cancer (all ages) ...	30

Social Conditions of the District.

These remain the same as in previous years.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1941.

DISEASE.	M.	F.
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers.	0	0
2. Cerebro-spinal fever	0	0
3. Scarlet Fever	0	0
4. Whooping Cough	0	0
5. Diphtheria	0	0
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory system	3	1
7. Other forms of tuberculosis	1	1
8. Syphilitic diseases	1	0
9. Influenza	1	0
10. Measles	0	0
11. Ac. Polio-myel. and polio-enceph.	0	0
12. Ac. inf. enceph.	0	0
13. Cancer of b. cav. and oesoph (M) uterus (F)	0	1
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum	0	3
15. Cancer of breast	0	6
16. Cancer of other sites	14	6
17. Diabetes	0	0
18. Intracranial vascular lesions	7	15
19. Heart disease	19	16
20. Other diseases of circ. system	1	4
21. Bronchitis	6	3
22. Pneumonia	8	7
23. Other respiratory diseases	3	2
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	6	0
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years	0	0
26. Appendicitis	0	0
27. Other digestive diseases	3	2
28. Nephritis	5	2
29. Puer. and post-abortion. sepsis	0	0
30. Other maternal causes	0	0
31. Premature birth	3	1
32. Con. mal.; birth inj.; infant. dis.	5	1
33. Suicide	1	2
34. Road traffic accidents	2	2
35. Other violent causes	5	3
36. All other causes	6	14
<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>92</u>

SECTION B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Staff.

Report of a Special Committee of Enquiry into the work of the Sanitary Inspector appointed at a meeting of the Council held on the 20th day of November, 1942.

Meetings of Committee:

The Committee held meetings on 25th November 1942, 3rd December 1942, 19th January 1943 and 27th January 1943.

At its meeting on the 3rd December 1942 the Committee received the resignation of the Sanitary Inspector and thereupon abandoned its investigations. The resignation, however, was withdrawn before the next meeting of the Council and the Committee was instructed by the Council to proceed with its investigations.



Summary of Matters taken into Consideration:

The following matters were taken into consideration:-

- (1) Report of the Medical Officer of Health to the Public Health and Housing Committee on the 10th November 1942.
- (2) Supervision of milk production by the Sanitary Inspector.
- (3) Sanitary Inspector's record of his inspections.
- (4) Failure of the Sanitary Inspector to record his absences from the office in the log-book provided for the purpose upon the instructions of the Council.
- (5) Sanitary Inspector's travelling arrangements.
- (6) Sanitary Inspector's civil defence duties.
- (7) General work of the Sanitary Inspector.

Supervision of Milk Production by the Sanitary Inspector:

The Medical Officer of Health reported "A letter from the Gloucester County Council was submitted on the supervision of non-designated milk production in January 1941 and the Council passed the following resolution on the 21st February 1941:-

"It was resolved that the Sanitary Inspector be instructed to report month by month upon the production of non-designated milk and the results of bacteriological analysis."

"Although the Sanitary Inspector was instructed to take and submit for bacteriological examination a minimum of 8 samples per month, no reports have been presented since September 1941."

The Sanitary Inspector drew attention to the fact that the Council's Minutes contain no record of instructions to take a minimum of 8 samples per month but the Committee, however, were satisfied that the Medical Officer of Health had given instructions to that effect.

The Sanitary Inspector in reply admitted that the instructions had not been carried out but pleaded pressure of other duties including those of civil defence.

Sanitary Inspector's Record of his Inspections:

The Medical Officer of Health reported:-

Summary of Sanitary Inspector's Visits:

"In January 1941 I instructed the Sanitary Inspector to keep a daily summary of his inspections. This has been done in a most unsatisfactory manner and no entry has been made since 19th October 1942".

Sanitary Inspections of the District in 1941:

"I have today received returns of the Sanitary Inspector's work during 1941 -

(a) Of the 197 dairies, cowsheds and milkshops on the register, 190 were inspected and 228 inspections were made. These returns do not appear to agree with reports already made to the Council.

(b) All the 23 bakehouses in the district have been inspected annually since 1939.

(c) Shops and Offices. During the year 66 were inspected and 157 inspections made. These figures compare with 46 and 97 respectively for 1940.

"I am of the opinion that these returns require further investigation and I suggest the appointment of a small committee."

The Committee considered the provisions of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, made by the Minister of Health which provide that the Sanitary Inspector shall, inter alia,

- (16) enter from day to day, in a book or on separate sheets or cards provided by the local authority, particulars of his inspections and of the action taken by him in the execution of his duties;
- (17) at all reasonable times, when applied to by the Medical Officer of Health, produce to him his books, or any of them, and render to him such information as he may be able to furnish with respect to any matter to which the duties of sanitary inspector relate;

(18) as soon as practicable after the 31st day of December in each year, furnish the medical officer of health with a tabular statement containing the following particulars:-

- (a) the number and nature of inspections made by him during the year;
- (b) the number of notices served during the year, distinguishing statutory from other notices;
- (c) the result of the service of such notices.

The Committee upon examination of the Summary of Visits found that on the 10th November, when this was handed to the Clerk, the last entry was in respect of the 19th October. It appeared that whereas individual entries had been permanently recorded the columnar totals had been inserted in pencil only.

The Sanitary Inspector stated that his summary was usually made up weekly but that during periods of urgent work it was sometimes longer delayed.

The Sanitary Inspector stated that he kept a daily record of his inspections in his private notebook which the Committee noted was not available for the inspection of the Medical Officer of Health or the Council.

In order to give the Sanitary Inspector an opportunity of proving the accuracy of the details of his visits given to the Medical Officer of Health, the Committee intimated that the Sanitary Inspector's books which had been deposited with the Clerk should be available for reference but the Sanitary Inspector did not avail himself of this opportunity.

The Sanitary Inspector at a subsequent meeting amplified his previous statement by saying that he had kept a daily record in his office diary but admitted, however, that this record was not complete.

It was then agreed that in order to resolve this ambiguous state of affairs the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector should collaborate in an attempt to verify the true particulars.

It was subsequently stated by the Medical Officer of Health and agreed by the Sanitary Inspector that the number of separate dairies, cowsheds and milkshops inspected during the year was 76 and that the total number of inspections carried out was 113 of which 13 were unidentified.

No record was found in the Sanitary Inspector's private diary of bakehouse inspections during the year, but the Sanitary Inspector suggested that these may have been included under a general description of "shops etc."

The Committee consider that in the matter of his records the Sanitary Inspector has not complied with the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, and has thereby neglected his duty.

#### Failure of the Sanitary Inspector to Record his Absences from the Office:

The Medical Officer of Health reported "I set out below a copy of a resolution of the Council dated June 1942:-

"It was resolved that an arrangement should be made to enable the whereabouts of all officers to be ascertained at any time during office hours and for this purpose the Committee recommend that a log book should be kept in which every senior officer shall be required, upon leaving the office, to enter therein sufficient information to enable him to be traced."

"I have to report that the Sanitary Inspector neglects to carry out the Council's instructions."

The Sanitary Inspector was bound to admit his failure to record in the log book provided by the Council details of his absences from the office. He claimed, however, that he had always informed someone in the office of his whereabouts and that on two particular occasions referred to by the Medical Officer of Health he was in fact carrying out the direct instructions of the Medical Officer and that on those occasions his whereabouts were known.

The Committee, however, can merely point to the Sanitary Inspector's excuse and record that the Council's instructions have not been carried out.



The Sanitary Inspector expressed his grievance that although other officers had failed to comply with the Council's instructions in this respect he alone had been singled out for special reprimand.

The Sanitary Inspector undertook to keep the log book in future.

#### Sanitary Inspector's Travelling Arrangements:

In the course of the investigations the Committee reviewed the existing travelling arrangements of the Sanitary Inspector under which he is paid an allowance of £50 per annum but keeps no car and relies on public transport. The Medical Officer of Health urged the necessity of different arrangements being made.

The Committee feels that the present arrangements are inadequate but the Sanitary Inspector stated that he was not prepared to keep a motor car at the present time.

#### Sanitary Inspector's Civil Defence Duties:

During the course of these discussions the Committee were reminded on several occasions by the Sanitary Inspector of the pressure of civil defence duties which, he alleged, had been thrust upon him. He referred especially to salvage, the emergency mortuary service, decontamination of foodstuffs and A.R.P. decontamination squad.

The Sanitary Inspector compared his civil defence responsibilities with those of other officials and stated that he was quite prepared to undertake the normal citizen's share of civil defence responsibility and referred to his training as an air-raid warden. He asked to be relieved of his civil defence responsibilities and the work connected with salvage.

The Committee is strongly of the opinion that the Sanitary Inspector before undertaking these civil defence duties should have reported his inability to perform them if he was thereby unable to carry out his normal duties satisfactorily.

#### General Work of the Sanitary Inspector:

The Sanitary Inspector claimed that he had been understaffed since the departure of Mr. Tanner, a former assistant, and stated that in addition to civil defence duties his own work had increased during wartime by the additional inspection of tinned foods which had become necessary owing to the poor quality of tins in use and the urgency of conserving all available foodstuffs.

The Committee was reminded that the Sanitary Inspector had been relieved of regular slaughterhouse inspections owing to the centralised arrangements of the Ministry of Food under which all slaughtering is done outside the district and also of the fact that he was no longer Building Surveyor.

The Clerk also drew attention to the delay which he experienced in getting attention to matters referred from his department.

The Sanitary Inspector submitted that despite all criticism of his work he had nevertheless devoted the whole of his time to the service of the Council.

The Committee is satisfied that the statements made by the Medical Officer of Health in his report to the Public Health and Housing Committee on the 10th November last with regard to the work of the Sanitary Inspector were justified and proved as correct and is forced to the conclusion that the Sanitary Inspector has neglected to carry out his duties satisfactorily. The Committee referred to a previous occasion when the Sanitary Inspector's work was under criticism.

A special meeting of the District Council was held on 12th February 1943 to consider the report of the Special Committee of Enquiry into the work of the Sanitary Inspector and it was resolved:-

"That the Sanitary Inspector be given a probationary period of six months in which to justify his continued engagement as a Sanitary Inspector, that his travelling allowance of £50 per annum be discontinued pro tem and that the Special Committee of Enquiry be authorised to arrange with the Sanitary Inspector for his travelling to be undertaken by means of hired conveyances at the expense of the Council."

No changes have been made in the following services:-

- (a) Laboratory facilities.
- (b) Ambulance facilities.
- (c) Nursing in the home.
- (d) Hospitals.

## SECTION C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### 1. Water Supply.

(a) In accordance with the Ministry of Health instructions, steps have been taken to chlorinate the main supplies and a "Candy" direct chlorination plant has been installed and is in commission at the Dursley pumping station. A Paterson installation of a similar type is being installed at the Wotton-under-Edge Waterworks.

(b) The piped supplies are controlled by chemical and bacteriological examination and 14 samples were submitted during the year. All were satisfactory.

(c) The total number of new connections with the public supply was 55 - in Dursley 2, Cam 7, Slimbridge 8, Uley 6, North Nibley 11, Nympsfield 19 and Wotton-under-Edge 2.

### Drainage and Sewerage.

No main sewer extensions have been carried out during the year.

### 2. Rivers and Streams.

No complaints regarding river pollution have been received.

### 3. (i) Closet Accommodation.

(a) Number of earth closets, pail closets or improved privies constructed:

Uley ... 2.

(b) Number of replacements of earth closets, etc., by W.C.'s:

NIL.

### (ii) Public Cleansing.

No extension or improvement was made during the year in the arrangements for public cleansing.

### (iii) Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

(a) Inspections made	...	...	...	...	326.
(b) Nuisances discovered or reported; Total					43.
" " Swine only					0.
(c) Complaints received	...	...	...		72.
(d) Informal or Preliminary Notices sent	...				12.
(e) Statutory Notices sent	...	...	...		0.
(f) Nuisances abated	...	...	...		50.
(g) Summonses issued	...	...	...		0.
(h) Convictions obtained	...	...	...		0.



Numbers inspected of each of the following:-

	<u>No. on</u> <u>Register.</u>	<u>No.</u> <u>Inspected.</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>No. of</u> <u>Inspections</u>
(a) Common Lodging Houses	-	-	-
(b) Bake-houses	23	23	35
(c) Dairies, Cowsheds, Milkshops	197	190	228
(d) Canal Boats	-	-	-
(e) Workshops	43	43	52

(iv) Shops and Offices.

Number inspected: 66 Number of inspections: 157.

No action was taken during the year under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, or under the Public Health Act, 1936.

(v) Camping Sites.

- (1) Number of sites used for camping purposes - 2  
 (2) Number of sites in respect of which licences have been issued under Section 269 P.H.A. 1936 - 2

(vi) Smoke Abatement.

Observations made: Nil. Complaints received: Nil.

(vii) Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no Swimming Pools in use in the district at present.

(viii) Eradication of Bed Bugs.

- (a) Number of houses found to be infested: None  
 (b) Number of houses disinfested: None

4. Schools.

All schools in the area were inspected and water is laid on or is in close vicinity to every school.

SECTION D. HOUSING.

1. New Houses erected during the year.

Nil.

2. Inspection of Dwelling Houses.

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... 16.  
 (b) Number of inspections made ... 22  
 (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations, 1925 ... Nil.  
 (b) Number of inspections made ... Nil.

- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... Nil.
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 15
3. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices.
- Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... 4
4. Action under Statutory Powers. ... Nil.

#### SECTION E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

By informal action, improvements to the drainage and sheds have been made in 4 cases.

(b) Meat.

With the exception of emergency slaughtering and authorised pig killing animals are slaughtered for food at the regional abattoir at Ebley near Stroud

During the year under review the following meat was found unfit for human consumption and destroyed:-

Pork 150 lbs.  
Beef 174 lbs.  
Sheep 3 carcasses.  
Calf one whole carcass.  
Mutton 9 lbs.

80 lbs of the above beef was from casualty animals as a result of enemy action. A case of generalised tuberculosis was found in a young bull calf.

Several cases of Coenurus Cerebralis were found amongst sheep which necessitated the seizure of the heads.

#### SECTION F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

DISEASE	Total cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	14	6	-
Diphtheria	13	13	-
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	-	-
Polymyelitis	1	1	-
Pneumonia	12	-	15
Erysipelas	1	-	-
Encephalitis Lethargica	-	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	-	-	-
Measles	57	-	-
Whooping Cough	87	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-



Analysis of total notified cases under age-groups:

DISEASE	Under 1 yr.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 yrs and over	TOTAL.
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	2	1	4	6	-	-	-	-	1	-	14
Diphtheria	-	-	-	3	2	4	-	-	3	-	1	-	13
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Forerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	4
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	2	1	3	1	12
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Encephalitis Lethargica	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	2	4	2	5	24	15	3	2	-	-	-	57
Whooping Cough	7	5	11	6	12	42	1	1	2	-	-	-	87

Diphtheria Immunisation.

(a) Number of pre-school children immunised	528
(b) Number of school children immunised	1452
(c) Number of notifications (children under the age of 15).	9
(d) Number of children included in (c) who had received a complete course of immunisation	1
(e) Number of deaths from diphtheria	0
(f) Number of deaths included in (e) in which the child is known to have completed the course of immunisation not less than 12 weeks before the onset of the disease	0

Tuberculosis.

New cases and mortality during 1941.

Age Periods	Now Cases				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 -	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
5 -	3	1	1	-	-	-	1	-
15 -	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	1
25 -	4	2	-	1	1	1	-	-
35 -	2	1	-	1	2	-	-	-
45 -	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
55 -	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	11	7	4	3	3	1	1	1

There is an increasing tendency to leave notification of cases of tuberculosis to the County Tuberculosis Officer and consequently in several cases the first intimation received is that patients suffering from Tuberculosis have been admitted to hospital for treatment. In every case the Medical Officer of Health has written to the Tuberculosis Officer requiring notification on Form A.